

## 1. Our events

### *Eco-campaign!*

On September 24, 2010 at the parking space of Dordoi Plaza in front of “Narodny” Supermarket the first event devoted to the 10 years anniversary of JICA Office’s establishment in the Kyrgyz Republic took place.

The goals of the event were a) to get city dwellers and guests of the capital know the importance of environmental protection by reduction of garbage on the streets of the capital and b) to get people acquainted with new culture of doing shopping with usage of eco-bags instead of plastic bags.

In order to cover as much people as possible to be involved in the campaign we invited for cooperation the biggest store chains in the city: the networks of “Narodny” shops and the networks of sell points of “Shoro” Company. Also our partners in implementing the campaign were JICA Alumni Association, Trade Center “Dordoi Plaza”, State Agency of environmental protection and forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.



At cashiers Japanese women helped to pack products and handed over eco-bags as a sign of new culture technology transfer of doing shopping



At the day of campaign all who did shopping in the “Narodny” Supermarket at cashiers instead of plastic bags presented eco-bags that are not harmful to environment.

The culture of using eco-bags is actively introduced in Japan on daily basis by ordinary Japanese people. There are no special expenses for this, the only intention to be in harmony with nature.

We hope that this campaign becomes the first step in usage of eco-bags in daily shopping of Kyrgyz citizens.

We invite you to know about 10 years activity of our organization on pages of this magazine! (Alelekova Svetlana)

### *One Village – One Product!*

On August 4, a “Community Empowerment Project through the OVOP (One Village – One Product) Movement” seminar was held at the Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic (MER KR) organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MER KR and the Issyk-Kul Oblast State Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic.



The goal of the seminar was to highlight the successful experience of JICA's "Community Empowerment Project with OVOP" and present the Guidelines for OVOP Movement in the future.

The seminar was attended by NGOs, representatives of donor organizations in Kyrgyzstan, representatives of the Agribusiness Competitiveness Center, etc.

Presentations were made on the project, including the "J-CEP Concept and Strategy", "Presentation on the activities of the Karakol Student Pilot Store (KSPS)", and "Presentation on the activities of the Issyk-Kul Brand producers".

In his speech, Mr Alybashev, Deputy Head of the Issyk-Kul

Oblast State Administration and National Director of JICA's "Community Empowerment Project with OVOP", pointed out that "there has been conducted some research work upon the results of which 8 Jamaats (Communities) have been short-listed to implement project activities to set up profit-generating rural operations. An 'antenna-store' was opened to support marketing of goods produced by rural dwellers in 2009. Thanks to the OVOP Movement, now we are proud of "Issyk-Kul Brand" products.

The seminar also featured an exhibition of Jamaat's products – handicraft items and processed fruits and berries.

Upon completion of the seminar, its organizers called the participants and all stakeholders for cooperation and introduction of the "One Village – One Product" Movement in various regions of our country.



After the seminar, everyone moved to get some good-quality products

We want to believe that the OVOP Movement, being new to Kyrgyzstan, shall find its new supporters and its place and distribution to create sustainable livelihood for everyone. (Sultankulov Sanjar)

### ***JICA and Roads!***

For the last several years the roads and transport sector has been one of the priority directions of JICA's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. This has been, once again confirmed by the launch of the new Grant Project for Improvement of the Equipment for Road Maintenance in Chui and Issyk-Kul Oblasts. Thus on August 12, 2010, a notes-exchange ceremony pertaining to this project took place between the Governments of Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic in the persons of Sin Maruo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, and Chorobek Imashev, Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.



Also, a Grand Agreement that defined the subsequent procedure for this project's implementation was signed by Hideaki Maruyama, Resident Representative of JICA in Kyrgyzstan, and the Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.

144 units of road equipment with overall worth of more than 11 million US dollars shall be supplied within the framework of the project for maintenance operations in Issyk-Kul and Chui Oblasts. In particular, thanks to the equipment supplied, it will be possible to ensure quality execution of such types of operations as road repairs (including holes patching and reconstruction of asphalt-concrete pavement), snow removal, natural disaster clean-up and equipment transportation. Apart from that, there shall be established two asphalt-concrete plants, in Issyk-Kul (near the village of



From left to right: Mr.Sin Maruo, Ambassador of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr.Chorobek Imashev, Minister of Finance, Mr.Hideaki Maruyama, Resident Representative of JICA in Kyrgyzstan, and Guljan Suyunalieva, JICA Office staff member.

### ***The Golden Gates of Issyk-Kul!***

On September 21, 2010, Mr.Sin Maruo, Ambassador of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr.Hideaki Maruyama, Resident Representative of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic and other staff members visited the JICA Project for the Support of Joint Forest Management in the Kyrgyz Republic (JFM) at the Kara-Talaa section of the Balykchi Forestry located at the entrance to the city of Balykchi.

Forest users of this locality have always experienced a shortage of irrigation water in the spring and summer time. Only a few landholders succeeded in planting apricot trees at his location, despite strong winds and dry climate. That is why the management of the Balykchi Forestry turned to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with a proposal on construction of an irrigation facility, on the premises that, 6 kilometers away, there was a natural water source in this locality that, with water seeping through the sandy ground, had never been used before.

With JICA's support the JFM Project carried out construction of the irrigation facility extending it all the way to the planting area. More than 109 households of the Balykchy Forestry landholders use



Let the gardens blossom!

Barskoon) and Chui (near the town of Tokmok) Oblasts. The total length of the road sections to be maintained with this equipment shall comprise 662 km. In this way, we hope, the implementation of the given project will provide the opportunity not only to improve the quality of roads in Issyk-Kul and Chui Oblasts, but also to enhance these Oblasts' road maintenance system overall. (Guljan Suyunalieva)



From left to right: Mr.Toktoraliev B., Director of the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Mr.Sin Maruo, Ambassador of Japan in the KR, Mr.Hideaki Maruyama, Resident Representative of JICA in Kyrgyzstan, Mr.Musabaev Baktybek, Director of the Balykchi Forestry, Mr.Kimura Yuzuru, JFM Project expert, and Mr.Omorov Maksatbek, Deputy Head of the Issyk-Kul Territorial Department of Environment Protection and Forest Ecosystems Development.

water from the new irrigation system for growing their apricot trees on the area over 385 hectares and plan to have a good harvest, thus facilitating the resolution of local population's employment and additional income generation issues. The longer-term benefits of the Balykchi Forestry are in amenity planting and creation of wind-break belts that contribute to favorable environment for the residents of the Balykchi city. The JFM Project, thereby, provides for achieving specific benefits for all of its participants, while showcasing rational and effective use of land, water and other natural resources for the benefit of the local population. (Sultanov Nurlan, JFM Project Staff Member)

## ***Enrollment for Public Servants to enter a Master Degree study program in Japan is now open***

A ceremony of signing the minutes of the meeting on preliminary study of the “Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarships” (JDS) Program took place on September 9, 2010.

The minutes were signed by the Resident Representative of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic Mr.Hideaki Maruyama and the Chairman of the Governing Commission, Director of the Civil Supervision Agency of the KR Mr.Cholponkul Arabaev. Representatives of Government agencies and JDS coordinators from Japan were also present at the ceremony.

As the parties noted the JDS Project was a unique opportunity for the nation’s public servants to acquire leading positions upon completing their internship and to contribute to the country’s economic development.

In conclusion of the ceremony the parties addressed the audience with testimonial speeches and affirmed their commitment for further cooperation. (Alelekova Svetlana)



Mr.Maruyama Hideaki and Mr.Cholponkul Arabaev

### NEWS RELEASE

#### ON THE BEGINNING OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE “JAPANESE GRANT AID FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS” (JDS) PROGRAM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Government of Japan has been implementing its JDS Program in the Kyrgyz Republic as part of its free aid since 2006. Currently, the 5<sup>th</sup> Stage of the Program is carried out. The goal of Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarships” (JDS) Program is providing support to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in human resources development and fostering bilateral relations between Kyrgyzstan and Japan. The Program is intended primarily for young public and municipal servants who are capable of assuming leading positions in the system of state governance of the Kyrgyz Republic after they have completed their term of studies in Japan and making their contribution to the development of the market economy of Kyrgyzstan. To date, 72 Program Fellows from Kyrgyzstan have been dispatched to Japan since 2007 to take part in the JDS Program, of whom about 40 Fellows have already returned to Kyrgyzstan upon successfully defending their thesis papers and acquiring Master Degrees.

As of September 28, 2010, the JICE Representative Office in the Kyrgyz Republic has begun public announcements and processing applications for participation in JDS Program.

This year, the JDS Program offers 15 (fifteen) offers scholarships for public and municipal servants to undergo Master Degree training at a number of Japan’s Universities within the framework of the following components:

- 1-1. Public Administration
- 1-2. Capacity Development for the Local Governments
- 1-3. Human Resource Development for Market Economy
- 2-1-1. International Relations/ Peace Building
- 2-1-2. Water and Energy Policy/ Environment Policy and Protection

For each component, there have been identified target organizations whose employees may participate in the Program.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Citizenship: the Kyrgyz Republic;

- Age: thirty eight (38) and under, as of April, 2011. (Date of birth is no earlier than April 2, 1972);
- Occupation: public or municipal servant at a target entity (permanent staff member status);
- Public or municipal work experience: no less than 2 years (full-time basis) as of April 1, 2011;
- Education level: higher (a Specialist or Bachelor's Degree);
- English language proficiency: sufficient to take Master Degree courses.

The Application Form and detailed information on target organizations, accepting Universities, etc., can be obtained from the JDS Project Office, public or municipal establishments, or downloaded from the JICE website: <http://sv2.jice.org/jds/> or the Civil Supervision Agency's website: [www.csa.kg](http://www.csa.kg).

Applications and all supporting documents should be submitted to the JDS Project Office of the JICE Representative Office before November 12, 2010.

For detailed information please contact the JDS Project Office of the JICE Representative Office, tel.: (0312)30-46-05, 30-45-51.

### ***Japan Committee for Tourism Development in Kyrgyzstan***

Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country that has largely untouched and beautiful nature. Very often foreign visitors made good references for the beauty of Kyrgyzstan. High mountains, rough rivers, clean air, distinctive traditions and hospitable people – all of these can make the country a major attraction for tourists.

However, tourism in Kyrgyzstan stays quite underdeveloped. That is why the Embassy of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Representative Office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Kyrgyz Republic Japan Center have formed the Japan Committee for Tourism Development in Kyrgyzstan. The goals of the Committee, as seen by its founders, are 1) creating conditions to attract tourists into Kyrgyzstan, 2) getting familiar with Japan, 3) carrying out campaigns on visiting Japan.

To this end, the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Japan Committee for Tourism Development in Kyrgyzstan took place at the Residency of the Ambassador of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic on September 30, 2010, also attended by Mr. Emil Umetaliev (Minister of Economic Regulation), Mr. Isa Omurkulov (Mayor of the City of Bishkek), Mr. Talaibek Koichumanov (Head of the Front Office of the Council for Business Development and Investments) and other tourism business community representatives.

Many ideas were submitted about improving conditions and advertising of the historical locations for tourists to visit. Thus, in the session participants' opinion, places of pilgrimage for tourists might

include the following: 1) places visited by Hiuen-Tsiang – a famous Buddhist monk who, as he sat out on a pilgrimage for the 'holy sites' of Buddhism in India, also visited the territory of today's Kyrgyzstan in 630 A.D., going around the Issyk-Kul Lake and visiting Suyab (a location in the Chui Valley near today's Tokmok). He is a well-known historical figure in Japan, and if the Japanese find out he has been to Kyrgyzstan, one may hope for a stream of tourists to come specifically from Japan; 2) places that the 3 branches of the Silk Road went through - *the Southern branch* that went along the tributary of Kyzyk-Suu to Alai, to the modern day Irkeshtam; *the Fergana branch* that led from Samarkand via Khujand to Isfana, Kokand, and Osh. Osh was the main transit trade point from where the caravans went further across the range of Torugart. *The Northern branch* that went from



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Zamin Rabat to Benket (Tashkent), Taraza (Jambyl), Nuzket (Kara-Balta) and Balasagyn (Burana). From here the caravans would go through the Bo'om Canyon to Issyk-Kul, and further to China across the San-Tash range. 3) The hot springs of Isyk-Ata, Jalal-Abad, etc. 4) Khan-Tengri (7,010m.) – an excellent place for amateur and real professional rock climbers, skiers and snow-boarders. 5) Issyk-Kul – resorts and sanatoriums.

Apart from all of these places of interest, the session participants noted the importance of conducting cultural events (apricot, skiing and other festivals). As well as developing such kinds of sports as equestrian and winter sports to attract tourism and through the use of local resources.



Honorary members of the Committee

Representatives of tourism business communities pointed out the importance of organizing informational study tours for Japanese tour operators in Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz tour operators in Japan, for such info tours would contribute to wide dissemination of information about Kyrgyzstan in Japan.

Upon summing up the outcomes of the session each organization identified persons responsible in the future for taking action in the above directions. One can say that this first session of the Committee was quite fruitful, for it provided a platform upon which all the stakeholders were able to meet and discuss existing issues and ways to jointly resolve them. (Burul Ibraeva)

## 2. JICA Volunteers

### *JICA Senior Volunteer Isamu Onuma*

Onuma-san, who came to Kyrgyzstan in October of 2009, worked for nine months at the 'Center for Investments Promotion' as a JICA senior volunteer as Chief Consultant and left for his home country on August 23, 2010.

In this short period of time he has published his book 'Investments in the Kyrgyz Republic (Information Guide for Foreign Investors)' in English and Japanese. The book is for Japanese and other foreign investors and it helps to get a basic idea about the Kyrgyz Republic. In particular, in his work Mr. Onuma gives a detailed overview of legal, economic and social aspects of running a business in Kyrgyzstan and covers such problems as protection of investors, taxes, licensing, and many other areas. In this book, according to the author, he attempted to answer all these questions, but what is more important, it serves as a guide for everyone who is interested in starting a business in the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Onuma sees the economic future of Kyrgyzstan as quite bright provided the parliamentary and presidential elections are successful.

He was surprised by the hospitality, goodwill and friendliness of the people of Kyrgyzstan towards the Japanese people. He expressed his confidence that this is, probably, the only country in the world that relates so warmly to the Land of the Rising Sun and its people. He was very much pleased to see the dedication of JICA volunteers and the Agency on the whole to render free assistance to Kyrgyzstan. In Mr. Onuma's opinion, this is exactly what can be called a real help.

Summing up his activities, Onuma-san, a pensioner in Japan, is quite pleased with the results he has achieved in the Kyrgyz Republic. According to him, he hasn't made any plans for the future yet, but feels like going to a developing country so that he could keep providing his assistance where he can. (Abdrzakova Sabira)



## ***Exhibition dedicated to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki***

For 8 days – from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2010, an exhibition dedicated to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was held at the Kara-Balta Technical and Economic College which was visited by over 350 people.

The reason for holding such an exhibition was quite simple. We wanted that Kara-Balta residents to learn at least some basic facts about an atomic bomb and the consequences of its use. Many people I met in this country, upon hearing that I come from Japan, would immediately respond like: “Hiroshima and Nagasaki – the bomb”. And, finding out that I actually come from Hiroshima, they would wonder, quite surprised, if anyone could really continue to live in Hiroshima after the events that took place there. Some would express their interest if there were a radiation hazard. After such questions, I, as a Hiroshima resident, decided that it was necessary to inform people on the actual state of things in Hiroshima. Also people tend to think that atomic bombing belongs to the past and will never happen again. However it would be good if people realized that the atomic bomb danger exists even these days in any part of the world.

There were 30 posters at the exhibition that were borrowed by the Kyrgyz Republic Japan Center from Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial Museum and there were documentaries shown that pertained to the atomic bombing theme. Also visitors at the exhibition helped to make paper cranes - symbols of peace, leaving their feedback, requests and wishes in our visitors’ logbook. The exhibition was attended by a retired military man, students, schoolchildren from the three schools in Kara-Balta and we had a discussion on the subject of atomic bombs and the consequences of the atomic bombing. Also there were discussions on uranium dumping during the Soviet Union period and environmental issues related to electromagnetic waves. The subject raised interest and all the participant were vigorously expressing their opinions. Then the schoolchildren would return to their respective educatory establishments and write their compositions on the subject. There are plans



Schoolchildren paid attention when studying the suggested material



Paper cranes will be sent to Japan

for the cranes that were made by our visitors and the feedback logbook to be sent to the Memorial Park in Hiroshima.

There is a similarity between the cities of Hiroshima and Kara-Balta, since there used to be an uranium processing plant in Kara-Balta. I will be very glad if, through our exhibition, city dwellers might ponder on the tragedies of war, horrors of atomic weapons application, and the holiness of peace. With all my heart, I hope that people in Kara-Balta shall say, not for once: “No to Atomic Bomb!”. (Shitani Tomoko, JICA Volunteer, translation by Abdrasakova Sabira)

## ***The first steps of the Japan Center in Kara-Balta***

An event dedicated to Japanese culture was successfully held in the vestibule of the Culture House of Kara-Balta on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 2010. This event was organized with the goal of providing the city dwellers with an opportunity to encounter Japan’s culture as well as come to know

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A Japanese samurai and Kyrgyz belles

better the Center of Japanese Culture in Kara-Balta that was opened in May, 2010. 500 event participants convened on that day under a fair autumn sky.

To get the visitors familiar with Japanese culture, apart from the concert, various Japanese traditional activities were held, such as the Sado tea ceremony, the Sedo calligraphy, Origami paper crafts, playing with a Japanese toy of Kendama, and using Japanese chopsticks to sort out beans. More over, the visitors were able to enjoy the sounds of the traditional Japanese drums Ooedo daiko and even to try playing them. The arts of Sado and Sedo came as all-favorite at this event. In the section where the Sado ceremony took place, people surrounded the instructor and watched with much interest over what was going on. In the Sedo section many enjoyed writing their own names, while others asked Japanese volunteers to write their names for them and in both cases it was obvious that all were really enjoying themselves. Apart from this entertainment, the visitors were welcome to get familiar with JICA volunteers' activities in Kyrgyzstan at the sale of origami, beautiful balls of assorted colors, that were made in the Jaiyl

boarding school and 100%-natural soap made in the village of Tasma in Issyk-Kul Oblast.

The hosts conducted the concert in Kyrgyz, Russian, and Japanese. After the event was opened by the recital of both countries' national anthems, the concert was continued by a documentary about Japan, then a dancing dedication to sea fishermen catch 'yosakoi soran', performed by 5 Japanese volunteers and 5 school pupils of the Kara-Balta secondary school. A local dancing group 'Allegro' performed at the concert to present a national Kyrgyz dance. There were also songs performed in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English. Traditional outfit of the performers stood out because of its bright colors and one could see how the visitors were fully enjoying the fusion of the two cultures.



Calligraphy turned out to be very popular among the visitors

At the event, a great help was rendered by JICA volunteers who came from various regions of the country, as well as the students of the Center of Japanese Culture in Kara-Balta and local schoolchildren. Probably, upon seeing the effort of the students and schoolchildren to represent the culture of Japan, the visitors felt even stronger the novelty of this world. I would like to give these kids all my boundless appreciation and I am sure that they will form the bridge of friendship between our two countries in the future. And, finally, I express my gratitude to all who participated in this event. (Shitani Tomoko, JICA Volunteer, translation by Abdrazakova Sabira)

### ***Always come to the rescue***

The first group of JICA volunteers who arrived this year consisted of 5 people. In connection with the changes in the political situation in Kyrgyzstan, the volunteers came approximately one month late, i.e. on July 29. Before they landed in Kyrgyzstan, the volunteers began forgetting both Kyrgyz and Russian they had been so painstakingly studying at the courses prior to the commencement of their activities. Nevertheless, starting from the first decade of



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September, they have actively started their work.

Their term of volunteer activities is far from expiring, yet they have started consultations as for where they shall have a farewell party as a token of gratitude. According to the contract, the volunteers shall work here for 2 years. Please meet your guests!

Volunteers: Shiho Nakamura, General Practitioner at the Children's Hospital in Micro-district Dzhal, Bishkek; Chihiro Tamura, Specialist on Persons With Disabilities in Bokonbaevo village; Atsushi Kuwayama, Youth Worker at the Children Center in Naryn city; Tomoko Uno, a medical nurse to work with Persons With Disabilities; Kosuke Shibai, General Practitioner at ARDI (Association of Disabled Children's Parents) in Bishkek.

### ***Back in Kyrgyzstan***



My name is Yoshizawa Yumiko and I rely on your good offices! I came to Kyrgyzstan for the second time, now in the capacity of a short-term program volunteer. After two years of living in Kyrgyzstan I went back to Tokyo in the summer and thought that I would not cope with the heat over there. And having returned to Kyrgyzstan this autumn I felt like I was totally reborn. I came back here because of the expansion of the 'One Village – One Product' Movement in Issyk-Kul Oblast. I am happy that I was given another opportunity to work in my fair Karakol city. For the duration of nine months I shall be looking over the entire Issyk-Kul Oblast for people who produce interesting and quality products, as well as nice materials for production. I will take every effort to make my dream of getting the 'Issyk-Kul Brand' recognized worldwide come true. For this I will also need your help and support. If you come to see or

learn about an interesting product, please let me know. (Yoshizawa Yumiko, JICA Volunteer, translation by Abdrazakova Sabira)

## **3. JICA Alumni Association Page**

### ***The Economic Strategy of the Association***

The tragic events of April have left nobody indifferent to the developments inside the country. The Government instructed its public offices to prepare a plan for economic situation stabilization in the country. At the time, many non-government and business organizations acted to prepare their own proposals, too. Likewise, the JICA Alumni Association management decided to involve its members-experts in this field to prepare a package of documents for submission to the Government. A group of the Association's activist members were able to generalize the proposals thus generated and submit it to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

A reply to this package of documents came in a letter from the Ministry of Economic Regulation that acknowledged that the package of documents titled "The Association's Proposals on Stabilization of Economic Situation in the KR" prepared by the JICA Alumni Association had been reviewed with some of its short-term segments taken into consideration, namely:

- Introduction of the "Single Window" principle;
- Revision of customs duties;
- Development of a strategy for informational support to the Government of the KR;
- Information provision for the public;
- Issues of improving re-export of goods via the customs territory of the KR.

Summing up, it can be said that, thanks to the efforts of several qualified members of the Association, this package of documents has received positive feedback from the Ministry and been taken into consideration. (Ibraeva Burul)

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*The purpose of this Newsletter is to introduce all interested readers to JICA's activities, to extend an invitation for partici-*

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*pation in its programs, to promote friendly information exchange among graduates of JICA courses. The Newsletter is circulated among individuals interested in JICA's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. For posting of information in the Newsletter, as well as for any general enquiries about JICA's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, please use the following email address: [jicakg-info@jica.go.jp](mailto:jicakg-info@jica.go.jp)*

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